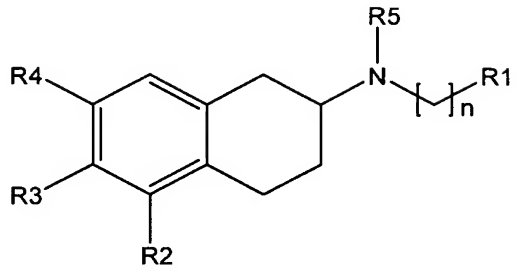
Patent Claims

1. Use of a compound of the general formula I

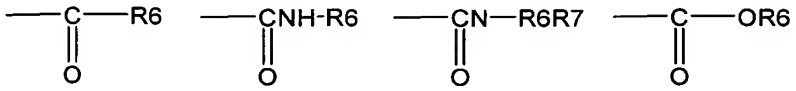


wherein:

n = 1 to 5;

R2 is OA;

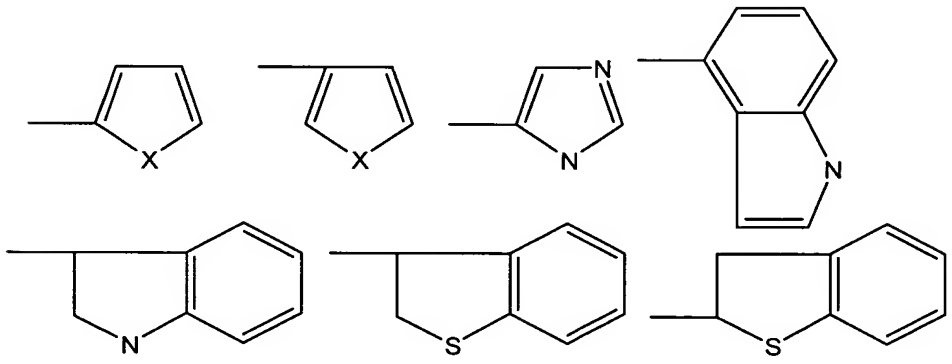
R3 and R4 are each independently selected from H and OA; with A being selected from H, alkyl, alkoxymethyl or a group



wherein R6 and R7 are independently alkyl or aryl;

R5 is a C1-3 alkyl;

R1 is a group selected from hydrogen, 3-pyridyl, 4-pyridyl, optionally substituted phenyl,



wherein X is selected from S, O or NH;

wherein the compound of formula I is present as a racemate or as a pure (R)- or (S)-enantiomer; as well as physiologically acceptable salts of these compounds, as a medicament for the preventive treatment of Parkinson's disease.

2. Use according to claim 1, wherein the preventive treatment is performed on individuals who are selected from the group of

(a) individuals without symptoms of Parkinson's disease but with an increased risk

of developing Parkinson's disease or

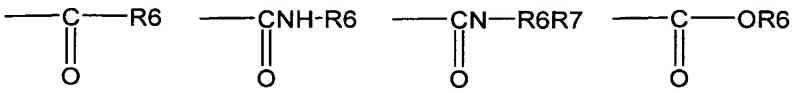
(b) individuals with early symptoms of Parkinson's disease, in whom at least three of the four cardinal symptoms of Parkinson's disease (rigidity, resting tremors, bradykinesia, postural instability) are not yet or are only partially present.

3. Use according to claim 2, wherein the individuals described in point (b) display several of the following clinical symptoms: olfactory disorders, depression, sleep disorders of the type "REM behavior disorder", constipation and short-term movement anomalies.

4. Use according to claim 2, wherein the individuals display a mutation in a PARK gene and/or modifications to the alpha synuclein or neuromelanin pattern.

5. Use according to one of the preceding claims, wherein R3 and R4 each represent hydrogen.

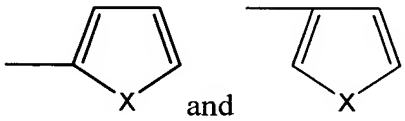
6. Use according to one of the preceding claims, wherein A is a hydrogen atom or a group selected from



wherein R6 is C1-12 alkyl, phenyl or methoxyphenol.

7. Use according to one of the preceding claims, wherein n = 1 to 3.

8. Use according to one of the preceding claims, wherein R1 is selected from the group



wherein X is S, O or NH.

9. Use according to one of the preceding claims, wherein X is a sulphur atom.

10. Use according to one of the preceding claims, wherein R5 is a C3 alkyl.

11. Use according to one of the preceding claims, wherein R1 is a 2-thienyl, R3 and R4 are both H, R5 is a C3 alkyl and n = 2.

12. Use according to one of the preceding claims, wherein the compound is 5,6,7,8-tetrahydro-6-[propyl[2-(2-thienyl)ethyl]amino]-1-naphthol.

13. Use according to claim 12, wherein the compound is the pure S-enantiomer (rotigotine).

14. Use according to one of the preceding claims, wherein the individuals display a dopaminergic cell loss in the substantia nigra of less than 60% before commencement of medicament administration.

15. Use according to one of the preceding claims, wherein the individuals have a UPDRS score of less than 10 before commencement of medicament administration.

16. Use according to one of the preceding claims, wherein the individuals have a Hoehn-Yahr score of 0 or 1.

17. Use according to one of the preceding claims, wherein the medicament is provided for parenteral, transdermal or mucosal administration.

18. Use according to one of the preceding claims, wherein the compound of general formula I is administered in a dose of 0.05 to 50 mg per day.

19. Kit for the diagnosis and treatment of Parkinson's disease, comprising
    (a) a diagnostic agent that enables the diagnosis of Parkinson's disease and/or the predisposition to develop Parkinson's disease at an early or asymptomatic stage and
    (b) a pharmaceutical formulation comprising substituted 2-aminotetralins of general formula I, as defined in one of claims 1 to 13.

20. Kit according to claim 19, wherein the diagnostic agent (a) is selected from:
    (i) an agent or a diagnosis kit for detecting neuromelanin
    (ii) an agent or a diagnosis kit for detecting semaphorin 3
    (iii) an agent or a diagnosis kit for detecting alpha-synuclein and/or its aggregates or
    (iv) an agent or a diagnosis kit for genetically detecting a mutation associated with the appearance of Parkinson's disease and/or an allele associated with the more frequent appearance of Parkinson's disease.